

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00855 191012Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00
L-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00
SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /085 W
-----191831Z 082098 /40

R 190928Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8162
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 0855

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: SNAR LA BU UNFDAC
SUBJECT: BULGARIANS MAY SEEK TO IMPORT LAO OPIUM

REF: VIENTIANE 0761

1. THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY IS CONSIDERING IMPORTING 3000 KILOGRAMS OF LAO OPIUM. BOTH THE LAO AND BULGARIAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM UNFDAC DIRECTOR IN VIENTIANE, ALEXANDRE ARNAUD, PREPARATORY TO MAKING FORMAL APPLICATION TO THE INCB FOR SUCH A TRANSACTION AS REQUIRED BY THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION.

2. IF SUCH AN APPLICATION IS MADE, A NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE BOARD, IN THE VIEW OF ARNAUD, COULD JEOPARDIZE THE CONTINUATION OF THE UNFDAC OFFICE HERE, OR AT LEAST
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00855 191012Z

THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ARNAUD, SINCE HE HAS COME TO BE VIEWED BY THE LAO AS UNABLE TO DELIVER SIGNIFICANT AID. DURING RECENT WEEKS, THE UNFDAC OFFICE HAS COME UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE LAO GOVERNMENT WHICH IS REPORTEDLY STILL ANGRY OVER THE REFUSAL BY FRED MACKENZIE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNFDAC, TO ACCEDE TO LPDR WISHES BY ALLOCATING \$200,000

IN UNFDAC FUNDS ACCORDING TO LPDR-DETERMINED PRIORITIES (REFTEL).

3. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH TOLD ARNAUD THAT HE WOULD NOT SEE HIM AGAIN UNTIL HE HAD PRODUCED AN AID PROJECT DOCUMENT THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE LAO AND INDICATED THAT IF NO PROJECT WAS DEVELOPED BY THE END OF JUNE, THE UNFDAC OFFICE IN VIENTIANE MIGHT BE CLOSED. SOUBANH SPOKE OF: "COOPERATION OR RUPTURE".

4. COMMENT: AS WE READ IT, PARAGRAPH 2, ARTICLE 24 OF THE 1961 SINGLE CONVENTION REQUIRES THAT A NATION SEEKING PERMISSION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD TO EXPORT OPIUM MUST FIRST FURNISH THE BOARD WITH THE DESTINATION OF THE OPIUM AS WELL AS INFORMATION REGARDING THE "CONTROLS IN FORCE" ON PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT AS SET DOWN IN ARTICLES 23 AND 31.

5. PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENT OF OPIUM IN LAOS, EVEN WITH MAXIMUM GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO MONITOR AND CONTROL. MOREOVER, BOTH THE ABILITY AND INTENT OF THE LPDR TO INSTITUTE AND MAINTAIN ADEQUATE "CONTROLS IN FORCE" APPEAR OPEN TO QUESTION GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S REPORTED FAILURE, IN 1976, TO COMPLY WITH THE CONVENTION'S ARTICLE 18 REQUIRING THAT PARTIES PROVIDE "AN ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORKING OF THE CONVENTION."

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00855 191012Z

6. CLOSURE OF THE UNFDAC OFFICE IN THE LPDR, OR REPLACEMENT OF ARNAUD BY LOCAL DIRECTOR LESS PAINSTAKING OR LESS VIGILANT (EITHER BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PERSUASION OR LACK OF MOTIVATION) WOULD FURTHER SEVERELY LIMIT WHAT NARROW PERSPECTIVE WE HAVE ON THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN THE LPDR.
CORCORAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPIUM, IMPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI00855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770178-1229
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770538/aaaabgqy.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5dc6cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 VIENTIANE 761
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2445620
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIANS MAY SEEK TO IMPORT LAO OPIUM
TAGS: SNAR, LA, BU, UNFDAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5dc6cc8f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009